

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

/057 W

-----111218Z 007153 /17

R 110932Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5957

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF PURIFICACION PEDRO

1. ON FEBRUARY 10, AMRSP DETAINEES COMMITTEE MEMBER GAVE EMBASSY FACT SHEET ON PURIFICACION PEDRO, ARRESTED IN BATAAN JANUARY 18 AFTER BEING SHOT IN THE SHOULDER. SHE WAS TAKEN TO BATAAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL. HER FAMILY NOTIFIED OF HER ARREST AND ALLOWED TO VISIT HER. ON JANUARY 23, AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M. MEMBERS OF THE FIFTH CONSTABULARY SECURITY UNIT, LED BY COL. MIGUEL AURE, VISITED HOSPITAL AND FORCED MISS PEDRO'S SISTER TO LEAVE. AT 6:30 P.M. A HOSPITAL ATTENDANT ENTERED AND THEN LEFT MISS PEDRO'S ROOM VISIBLY DISTURBED. WHEN HER SISTER ALLOWED ENTER ROOM SHE DISCOVERED MISS PEDRO IN BATHROOM LEANING AGAINST THE DOOR WITH HER FEET ON THE FLOOR HANGING BY A WIRE. DEATH REPORT STATES MISS PEDRO DIED BY "ASPHYXIATION BY STRANGULATION." BULLETIN TODAY, WHICH IDENTIFIED MISS PEDRO AS NPA LEADER, REPORTED JANUARY 28 THAT SHE HAD "COMMITTED SUICIDE INSIDE HER ROOM"

2. MISS PEDRO'S BROTHER ERNESTO DE PEDRO (WELL KNOWN DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER) DISCUSSED HIS SISTER'S DEATH IN SOME DETAIL WITH ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICER USIS FEBRUARY 10 (MEMCON POUCHED EA/PHL AND D/HA). MISS PEDRO WAS 28- YEAR-OLD
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UP GRADUATE WORKING IN TONDO AS SOCIAL WORKER. HER ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH NASSA (NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL ACTION). SHE WAS ALLEGEDLY NOT NPA MEMBER, BUT WENT TO BATAAN WITH NPA MEMBERS TO MEET SOME OF HER OLD FRIENDS FROM UP. SHE APPARENTLY TOLD MILITARY FRIEND WHO SUGGESTED VISIT TO BATAAN WAS NAMED JULIETTE (NAME OF WIFE OF CPP/ML LEADER

JOSE MARIA SISON) AND THIS LED THEM TO BELIEVE SHE HAD VALUABLE INFORMATION.

3. MISS PEDRO'S BROTHER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT HIS SISTER'S CASE ON FEBRUARY 2 AT SENATOR SALONGA'S WEDNESDAY FORUM AT WHICH AP REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT. AP CORRESPONDENT SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVIEWED DE PEDRO. SO FAR NOTHING HAS APPEARED ON AP WIRE. DE PEDRO HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY FATHER ORTIZ OF CHURCH MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS BY SOME NUNS, WHO DISCUSSED PUBLICIZING HIS SISTER'S CASE. DE PEDRO HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SECRETARY ENRILE'S OFFICE AND HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT ENRILE WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE CASE.

4. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING CASE WITH EMBOFF, AMRSP DETAINEES COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID PEDRO CASE WAS THE LILIOSA HILAO CASE ALL OVER AGAIN. DEPARTMENT CAN REVIEW THIS CASE IN AMRSP PUBLICATION POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE PHILIPPINES. HILAO WAS ALLEGEDLY A SUICIDE, BUT IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED SHE DIED AS RESULT OF TORTURE. WHILE DETAILS OF CASE ARE NOT CLEAR (FOR EXAMPLE, EXTENT OF MISS PEDRO'S CONNECTION WITH NPA), IT WOULD APPEAR SHE SUCCUMBED DURING OR AS RESULT OF INTERROGATION IN WHICH TORTURE EMPLOYED. CASE HAS POTENTIAL FOR MAJOR EXPLOITATION BY ANTI-MARCOS CHURCH GROUPS HERE AND MARCOS' CRITICS ABROAD. WE SHALL MONITOR CASE CLOSELY TO SEE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS TAKEN AGAINST MILITARY WHO APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MISS PEDRO'S DEATH.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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